

KILLING WEEDS ON THE DITCH BANKS

The spread of noxious weeds throughout the irrigated districts of Arizona is being observed with fear. The main canals and smaller irrigation ditches together with the fertile soil have done much to spread these weeds.

Something should be done to check, this dangerous increase. It is estimated that one-half a million dollars is expended annually to keep the irrigation ditches clean in Arizona. Besides this amount, it is probable that weeds disseminated by irrigation waters cause an annual loss of fully a million dollars a year. This condition of affairs sure should be more fully realized by farmers so that active steps may be taken to prevent further loss, warns Dr. R. H. Williams, animal husbandman of the U. of A. agricultural experiment station.

Fortunately there is a simple and profitable means for controlling the spread of the weeds. Sheep will solve the problem and return a handsome profit for the privilege.

All ditches and canals in the state should be fenced, and sheep maintained on them. If this is done, you may be certain that practically all kinds of weeds will be destroyed and converted into profitable wool and mutton. The discovery that sheep will do this work was made by the Arizona agricultural experiment station and bids fair to save the farmers many thousands of dollars annually. They are a net asset as the work performed by them in keeping the ditches free from weeds and thus saving considerable expense, will more than cover the cost of keeping them. At least \$1.50 worth of wool should be obtained from each sheep and an average of \$5 for each lamb raised. Thus, it would seem, that a farmer could sure count on about \$6.50 of net profit for each sheep maintained on the farm.

Care, however, should be exercised not to have too many sheep as their special place is to make use of weeds. For this purpose, they require very little attention or labor except drinking water and removing the wool. Care should be taken so that the ditch

banks may be supplemented by alfalfa hay when weeds are scarce. About one sheep for every two or three acres of irrigated land is considered a reasonable number. This will call for about 125,000 sheep to be maintained on irrigated farms in Arizona.

This number of animals should return at least \$750,000 a year from lambs and wool. This is a net profit as the sheep have more than paid their way by the destruction of weeds.

It is certain that farmers on irrigated land as well as those on dry farms will use sheep to advantage in the near future. Intelligent farmers would do well to fence their ditches and purchase a few sheep suitable for this purpose. Tunis crosses have proven themselves to be especially vigorous and heat resistant, so that they are suitable for the warm valleys. It is hoped that every farmer in the irrigated districts will have at least a few of these sheep as they will pay a handsome revenue.

Following this one suggestion alone, the farmers on irrigated lands in Arizona may save at least one-half a million dollars' worth of labor in keeping their ditches clean and will obtain a like amount from the sales of wool and mutton. Progressive farmers are now realizing this fact, and one may see small flocks located in many places on irrigated farms.

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o A SUMMER ROMANCE o
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In the shade,
Pretty maid
On hammock reposing.
Kimono fine,
Figure divine;
Lover stealthily closing.
Breezes expose
Silken hose,
Laces soft and neat.
Maid unaware
Lover is there,
Tosses her pretty feet.
Lover indicted,
Very excited,
Advances step or two;
Eyes riveted,
Fairly pivoted
On girl's pretty shoe.
Presence detected,
Maiden detected,
Claims advantage undue.
Lover exclaims,
Nobody blames.
I would—so would you.

—Five Points Herald

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